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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Monday, December 4, 1944

Subject - CHRISTMAS APRONS. Information from home economists of the
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Do you plan to make some aprons for Christmas presents?

Then you'll be interested in suggestions from clothing specialists of the
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

They've recently designed neat-fitting, comfortable, pretty aprons for about
every household use you can think of...general kitchen wear...for cleaning up the
house....to wear when you serve at church suppers...an apron to protect your dress
when you're mopping...and even a basket apron for gathering up chips or eggs.

Notice, I describe these aprons as neat-fitting. We sometimes think of an
apron as being all things to all women. And at family reunions when all of the
girls in the family are trying to help in the kitchen, you'll see tiny Gertrude
swallowed in Aunt Martha's big apron. Or Cousin Bertha, who's on the stout side,
getting what protection she can from Alice's little handkerchief of an apron.
But when you make an apron for a Christmas present, you want to make one that fits.

Have you ever stopped to figure out the things that make an apron fit well?
Clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture studied these things.
Here are some of the problems they tackled before they designed the aprons.

First, how well should the apron fit? An apron that hangs loosely from your
body is always in the way. On the other hand, a more fitted apron may be binding.
It won't allow you to reach. You have to take it off when you're cleaning out the
top shelves of the kitchen cabinet.

The clothing specialists licked this problem by putting fullness and shape in-
to the right places. The aprons they designed allow you to reach and bend.

Then there's the shoulder straps. You know what a nuisance it is to have poorly fitting shoulder straps. They have a way of sliding down over your shoulders right at the critical moment. Your hands are covered with flour or wet with dishwater and suddenly you can feel the straps of your apron slide down over your arms.

Well, the clothing specialists designed shoulder straps that will stay put. They are cut to fit well over the shoulders. And they're braced at the back, some button at the back - others tie.

Another important item on an apron is the pocket. I should say pockets because an apron often has two pockets. The clothing specialists use large roomy pockets. And they place the pockets at hand level. This means they're low enough on the apron to be out of the way of door knobs and drawer handles. They're not so likely to catch on things and get snagged.

But you're concerned not only with the wearability of the apron - the fit and the appearance. You want to know if it's easy to make. The answer is "Yes". The clothing specialists have designed several patterns that can be cut crosswise the material. They're cut in one piece. There aren't many button holes. The seams are pinked and flat-felled.

And here's another advantage to the homemaker who wears one of these aprons. It's easily ironed. These aprons are designed so that they will fold flat too. Don't take up much room in the dresser drawer.

I'd like to tell you about some of the different designs. Let's just take an imaginary Christmas list. There's Aunt Martha. A dynamo in the kitchen. So you'll want to make an apron that's really useful. An apron that's pretty and becoming.

Here's a suggestion for Aunt Martha's Christmas apron. Make it from the jumper apron pattern. Use a striped material. The jumper apron is nice for stout women. In striped material it gives a slenderizing appearance. Wide shoulders. Narrow waist.

And for cousin Mary, there's a pretty pinafore pattern. This one has a square neck. There's a straight panel on the front with gathered sections on each side of the skirt. And two big pockets. Don't worry about buttonholes. This has only one button. A sash holds the pinafore in at the waist. And Cousin Mary will enjoy wearing a pretty flowered pinafore when she's keeping house for her soldier husband in an army camp town.

Make a dainty little bias apron for your friend, Margaret. It has a V strap neck. Use a cherry floral pattern for this one too and trim it with rick rack. Margaret will be the prettiest girl in the club when she wears it to serve at church suppers.

And here's a suggestion. You know how Cousin George has stepped in and taken his share of household work since the new baby came. He gets his own breakfast and helps with the supper dishes and with Sunday dinner. His wife's aprons don't fit him but he always wears one. Why not make an apron for Cousin George. Clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have designed a man's apron. It really fits. And it's long enough too. Comes to the bend of a man's knee and protects his trousers. Has three pockets. The small pocket in the middle is good to hold cigarettes.

These are just a few suggestions for Christmas aprons from those designed by the clothing specialists. You can get a list of the patterns for these aprons by writing the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for the pattern list for women's work clothes. It will be sent to you free of charge.

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